

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00452 221106Z  
ACTION CU-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5827  
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MANAMA 0452

STATE FOR CU/ARTS, NEA

USIA FOR IOP/DA,,/8: , INA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SCUL  
SUBJECT: CLASSICAL GUITARIST WILLIAM MATTHEWS

REF: STATE 309909, MANAMA 01"

1. CLASSICAL GUITARIST WILLIAM MATTHEWS PERFORMED SUBERBLY BEFORE AUDIENCES COMPOSED OF MINISTERS AND OTHER VIPS, TOP PROFESSIONALS, UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, FOREIGN DIPLOMATS, LEADING EXPATRIATES, AND IMPORTANT AMERICAN CONTACTS IN BAHRAIBWD DOHA BETWEEN FEBRUARY 8 AND 12. IN ADDITION, QATAR TV BROUGHT HIM TO THE STATION FOR A TAPING SESSION WHICH WILL BE DIVIDED INTO AT LEAST SIX SEGMENTS FOR THEIR POPULAR VARIETY PROGRAM. RADIO DOHA ALSO TAPED AN INTERVIEW AND SEVERAL MUSICAL SELECTIONS TO BE AIRED IN THE COMING WEEK.

2. THE ONLY NEGATIVE PORTION OF HIS VISIT CAME FROM INADEQUATE BRIEFINGS/PREPARATIONS CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE OF THINGS. MATTHEWS ARRIVED WITH A FATTICKET WHICH INCLUDED SUCH STOPS AS  
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DAMASCUS, BAGHDAD AND TEL AVIV. NO ONE HAD WARNED HIM OF THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OR CHECKED HIS TICKET. IT TOOK THE MANAMA ADMIN OFFICER AND GSO AT LEAST SIX HOURS OF THEIR OWN TIME ON A WEEKEND TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. HE ALSO WAS SCHEDULED TO VISIT BAGHDAD, BUT HAD NO VISA. THE CONSUL AND VICE CONSUL IN DOHA SPENT MANY HOURS TRYING TO RESOLVE THAT

PROBLEM AND FINALLY RESORTED TO SKIPPING BAGDAD WHICH CREATED THE ADDITIONAL PROBLEM OF HOW TO GET MATTHEWS TO DAMASCUS IN TIME FOR HIS PROGRAM THERE.

FORTUNATELY, A FRIENDLY TRAVEL AGENT IN DOHA AND HELPFUL PAO (BOULOS MALIK) IN BEIRUT ARRANGED AN AIR-LAND VOYAGE FOR MATTHEWS FROM DOHA TO DAMASCUS VIA BEIRUT.

3. IN MANAMA, MATTHEWS PERFORMANCE FOR A SELECT VIP AUDIENCE AT THE RESIDENCE BROUGHT OFT THREE MINISTERS AND NUMEROUS OTHER SENIOR BAHRAINIS. A NEWSPAPER REVIEW OF HIS PERFORMANCE SAID, "...HE IS ONE OF THAT RARE BREED OF PERFORMERS WHO WOULD HUSH THE TRAFFICE IN TIMES SQUARE OR STOP THE TRAINS ON THE METRO". THE REVIEW CONCLUDED, "MR. MATTHEWS IS HALF WAY THROUGH A FIERCELY DEMANDING TOUR ARANGED BY THE US STATE DEPARTMENT ...IT TAKE IN 20 ODD RECITALS IN AS MANY PLACES. THAT MR. MATTHEWS RETAINS HIS FRESHNESS AND EXQUISITE WARMTH IS A TRIBUTE TO HIS REMARKABLE SKILLS."

4. LATER HE GAVE TWO CONCERTS FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS AT THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES IN MANAMA. THE NEARLY THREE HUNDRED LUONERS RESPONDED WITH ENTHUSIASM UNCLASSIFIED

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AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LATER WROTE , "THE EXPERIENCE WAS EXHILERATING AND WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AND HELPED INITIATE A NEW VISTA OF EXTRA-CIRRICULAR ENRICHMENT..." THIS WAS WELCOME PRAISE AS THE COLLEGE PRESENTATION MARKED POST'S FIRST ATTEMPT TO PROGRAM AT SUCH A LEVEL.

5. NEARLY THREE HUNDRED PEOPLE ATTENDED THE INVITATION ONLY PERFORMANCE AT THE NEWLYPWXNED DOHA CLUB IN QATAR. ALTHOUGH ONLY A HANDFUL WERE QATARIS, THE REST COMING FROM THE EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY, IT WAS THE INITIAL CULTURAL-TYPE PRESENTATION THE POST HAS EVER ATTEMPTED.

6. THE FOLLOWING EVENING MATTGAWS WOWED SELECT AUDIENCE AT THE RESIDENCE. HIS VIRTUOSITY REACHED ITS PEAK DURING THAT PERFORMANCE.

7. MATTHEWS PROVED TO BE A MARVELOUS MUSICIAN AND AN INDIVIDUAL CAPABLE OF ROLLING WITH THE MANY PUNCHES THE REGION THROWS AT VISITORS. CLUVERIUS

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## Message Attributes

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